II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A connecting device for connecting two or more cable ends, wherein each of the cable ends is constructed from at least a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the connecting device comprising:

an insertion bush for inserting the two ~~core ends~~ cores of the cable ends, whereupon insertion of the cores into the insertion bush causes the insertion bush to secure the cores therein;

an insulator arranged around the insertion bush;

a conductive layer, wherein ~~in use~~ the conductive layer ~~is disposed in order to provide~~ provides electrical contact between the two earth shields of the two cable ends;

~~wherein~~ a fixing means ~~are provided~~ for fixing the cable ends to the connecting device; and

wherein ~~in use~~ after the cores are secured within the insertion bush, the insertion bush ~~connects against~~ is in cooperative contact with the cores of the cable ends to provide conductive contact between the cores, and ~~in use~~ the insulator and the conductive layer ~~connect almost or wholly to~~ are in cooperative contact with respectively the insulating sheaths and the earth shields of the cable ends.

2. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of ~~in~~ claim 1 for connecting two or more cable ends ~~provided with~~ , wherein each cable end further comprises a field control sheath arranged around the insulating sheath, the connecting device comprising:

a field control layer provided around the insulator for controlling the electrical field between the field control sheaths, wherein the conductive layer is arranged around the field control layer and ~~in use~~

wherein the insulator, the field control layer and the conductive layer ~~almost or wholly connect to~~ are in cooperative contact with respectively the insulating sheaths, the field control sheaths and the earth shields of the cable ends.

3. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 2 for connecting two or more cable ends ~~containing~~ , wherein each cable end further comprises a protective sheath, ~~wherein the device comprises~~ the connecting device further comprising:

a protective sleeve for ~~almost or wholly connecting~~ cooperatively contacting the insulator, the field control layer, the conductive layer and the protective sleeve ~~during use~~ to respectively the insulating sheaths, the field control sheaths, the earth shields and the protective sheaths of the cable ends.

4. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 3, wherein the insertion bush, the insulator, the field control layer, the conductive layer and the protective sleeve are integrated into one element.

5-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein the insertion bush comprises clamping means for fixedly clamping the inserted ~~core ends~~ cores.

10. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 9 , wherein the clamping means engage on the inserted ~~core ends~~ cores and the fixing means engage on at least one of the earth shield, the insulating sheath and the field control sheath.

11. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 9, wherein the clamping means ~~are adapted to~~ provide a ~~relatively~~ low resistance to a movement of the core ends in an insertion direction and ~~to~~ provide a ~~relatively~~ high resistance to movement in the opposite direction.

12. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 11, wherein the clamping means comprise a number of lips extending obliquely in the insertion direction.

13. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of ~~claim 3~~ claim 1, wherein the fixing means comprise a sleeve which is arranged around the conductive layer and shrinkable at least in a radial direction.

14. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 13, wherein the shrinkable sleeve is manufactured from a heat-activated plastic.

15. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 14, wherein the fixing means ~~also~~ further comprise heating means ~~provided in or close to the shrinkable sleeve~~ to cause the shrinkable sleeve to shrink through heat.

16. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 15, wherein the heating means comprise at least one resistance wire arranged on the shrinkable sleeve.

17. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 13, wherein the shrinkable sleeve is formed by the protective sleeve.

18. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 1 , wherein the fixing means comprise a tube which is arranged around the conductive layer and which is compressible in at least a radial direction.

19. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 1, wherein the fixing means comprise an elastic sleeve arranged around the conductive layer.

20. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 1, wherein the fixing means comprise a sleeve ~~which is~~ arranged around the conductive layer ~~and~~ , wherein both outer ends of ~~which~~ the fixing means have a tapering form for fixing the cable end with the outer ends.

21. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 1, wherein the conductive layer is compressible at least in a radial direction.

22. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 1, wherein the insulator extends in a longitudinal direction beyond the insertion bush.

23. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 2, wherein the field control layer extends in a longitudinal direction beyond the insulator.

24. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 2, wherein the conductive layer extends in a longitudinal direction beyond the field control layer.

25. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 3, wherein the protective sleeve, in the inserted situation, extends in a longitudinal direction beyond the end of a stripped part of the cable end.

26. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 25, wherein the fixing means are ~~at least provided~~ close to the outer ends of the protective sleeve.

27. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 1, further comprising at least one ~~removable~~ spacer for holding the conductive layer at a predetermined diameter, wherein the at least one spacer is detachable from the connecting device after the cable end is inserted into the connecting device.

28. (Currently Amended) The connecting device of claim 1, wherein spring means are arranged around the conductive layer ~~in order~~ to compress ~~this~~ the conductive layer in a radial direction.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for mutually connecting ~~at least~~ two cable ends, the cable ends each comprising ~~at least~~ a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a connecting device comprising ~~at least~~ an insertion bush with an insulator therearound and a conductive layer;

stripping each cable end in stepwise manner;

successively inserting each core ~~end~~ of each cable end into the insertion bush of the connecting device, whereupon insertion of the cores into the insertion bush causes the insertion bush to secure the core ends therein; and

wherein after the cores are secured within the insertion bush, ~~inserting the cable ends in the device until~~ the cores of the different cable ends ~~connect against~~ are in cooperative contact with the insertion bush ~~in order~~ to provide conductive contact between the cores of the different cable ends and ~~until~~ the insulator and the conductive layer ~~almost or wholly connect to~~ are in cooperative contact with respectively the insulating sheaths and the earth shields of the cable ends; and

fixing the cable ends relative to the connecting device.

30-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~31~~ 29, wherein fixing the cable ends relative to the connecting device comprises ~~at least partly heating~~ applying heat to a component of the connecting device made from heat-shrinkable material.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~31~~ 29, wherein ~~conducting contact between the cable ends is provided by only inserting the cable ends.~~ inserting the cable ends into the connecting device results in a conductive connection between the two cable ends.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~31~~ 29, further comprising ~~removing a spacer whereby the conductive contact between the cable ends is provided~~. detaching one or more spacers from the connecting device after inserting the cable ends into the connecting device.

35. (Original) The method of claim ~~31~~ 29, wherein the earth shield is folded over after the stepwise stripping of each cable end.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising placing a sleeve between the cable end and the folded earth shield in order to prevent the earth shield from being pressed into the cable end.

37. (Original) The method of claim ~~31~~ 29, further comprising~~, for different cable diameters,~~ stripping ~~at least~~ a part of the insulating sheath of the cable to a substantially constant diameter.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising stripping the insulating sheath of the cable such that a conical transition results between said part of the insulating sheath and a field control sheath.

39. (Cancelled) ~~The method of claim 30, further comprising clamping a core end of the insertion bush and fixing at least the earth shield, the insulating sheath, the field control sheath and the protective sheath.~~

40. (Canceled)

41. (Newly Presented) A connecting device for connecting a stripped cable end to an end element, wherein the cable comprises a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the connecting device comprising:

an insertion bush for inserting the core of the cable, whereupon insertion of the core into the insertion bush causes the insertion bush to secure the core therein;

a sleeve-shaped insulator arranged around the insertion bush;

a fixing means for fixing the cable end to the device; and

wherein after the core is secured within insertion bush, the insertion bush is in cooperative contact with the core to provide electrical contact between the core and the end element, and wherein the insulator of the connecting device is in cooperative contact with the insulating sheath of the cable.

42. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the cable further comprises a field control sheath arranged around the insulating sheath, and the device further comprises:

a field control layer arranged on a part of the inner surface of the insulator, wherein the insulator of the connecting device is in cooperative contact with the insulating sheath of the cable and the field control layer of the connecting is in cooperative contact with the field control sheath of the cable.

43. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the insulator also connects to the earth shield of the cable.

44. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the insertion bush, the field control layer and the insulating sheath are integrated into one element.

45. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the insertion bush comprises clamping means for fixedly clamping the inserted cores.

46. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 45, wherein the clamping means engage on the inserted cores and the fixing means engage on at least one of the earth shield, the insulating sheath and the field control sheath.

47. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 45, wherein the clamping means provide a low resistance to a movement of the core ends in an insertion direction and provide a high resistance to movement in the opposite direction.

48. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 47, wherein the clamping means comprise a number of lips extending obliquely in the insertion direction.

49. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the fixing means comprise a sleeve which is arranged around the conductive layer and shrinkable at least in a radial direction.

50. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 49, wherein the shrinkable sleeve is manufactured from a heat-activated plastic.

51. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 50, wherein the fixing means further comprise heating means to cause the shrinkable sleeve to shrink through heat.

52. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 51, wherein the heating means comprise at least one resistance wire arranged on the shrinkable sleeve.

53. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 49, wherein the shrinkable sleeve is formed by the protective sleeve.

54. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41 , wherein the fixing means comprise a tube which is arranged around the conductive layer and which is compressible in at least a radial direction.

55. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the fixing means comprise an elastic sleeve arranged around the conductive layer.

56. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the fixing means comprise a sleeve arranged around the conductive layer, wherein both outer ends of the fixing means have a tapering form for fixing the cable end with the outer ends.

57. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the conductive layer is compressible at least in a radial direction.

58. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein the insulator extends in a longitudinal direction beyond the insertion bush.

59. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 42, wherein the field control layer extends in a longitudinal direction beyond the insulator.

60. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 42, wherein the conductive layer extends in a longitudinal direction beyond the field control layer.

61. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 43, wherein the protective sleeve, in the inserted situation, extends in a longitudinal direction beyond the end of a stripped part of the cable end.

62. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 61, wherein the fixing means are close to the outer ends of the protective sleeve.

63. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, further comprising at least one spacer for holding the conductive layer at a predetermined diameter, wherein the at least

one spacer is detachable from the connecting device after the cable is inserted into the connecting device.

64. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 41, wherein spring means are arranged around the conductive layer to compress the conductive layer in a radial direction.

65. (Newly Presented) A method for connecting to an end element, a cable end comprising a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an end element comprising an insertion bush, a connecting end connected thereto and a sleeve-like insulator;

attaching a connecting device to the end element,

stripping the cable end in stepwise manner;

inserting the cable end into the connecting device;

wherein the cable end is inserted into the connecting device until the core is in cooperative contact with the insertion bush and the insertion bush provides conductive contact between the cores and the connecting end, and the insulator is in cooperative contact with the insulating sheath of the cable end;

whereupon insertion of the core into the insertion bush causes the insertion bush to secure the core therein; and

fixing the cable end relative to the connecting device.

66. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein fixing the cable end relative to the connecting device comprises applying heat to a component of the connecting device made from heat-shrinkable material.

67. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein inserting the cable end into the connecting device results in a conductive connection between the cable end and the end element.

68. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising detaching one or more spacers from the connecting device after inserting the cable end into the connecting device, wherein the detaching results in a conductive connection between the cable end and the end element.

69. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 65, wherein the earth shield is folded over after the stepwise stripping of the cable end.

70. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 69, further comprising placing a sleeve between the cable end and the folded earth shield in order to prevent the earth shield from being pressed into the cable end.

71. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 65, further comprising stripping a part of the insulating sheath to a substantially constant diameter.

72. (Newly Presented) The method of claim 71, further comprising stripping the insulating sheath such that a conical transition results between said part of the insulating sheath and a field control sheath.

73. (Newly Presented) A connecting device for connecting to a stripped end of a cable, wherein the cable comprises a core, an insulating sheath and an earth shield, the connecting device comprising:

an insertion bush for insertion of the core of the cable therein, whereupon insertion of the core into the insertion bush causes the insertion bush to secure the core therein;

an insulator arranged around the insertion bush;

a conductive layer arranged around the insulator;

a fixing means for fixing the stripped end of the cable to the connecting device; and

wherein after the core is secured within the insertion bush, the insertion bush is in cooperative contact with the core, the insulator is in cooperative contact with the insulating sheath, and the conductive layer is in cooperative contact with the earth shield.

74. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 73 wherein the insertion bush secures the core within the insertion bush by a clamping means that engages pressure against the core as the core is inserted into the insertion bush.

75. (Newly Presented) The connecting device of claim 74 wherein the clamping means comprises a plurality of oblique annular members directed in the direction of insertion.